

SpeakEasy Singles to observe 30th anniversary this week

Dance Saturday
at Charleston
Moose Lodge

From staff reports

The SpeakEasy Singles social group will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a dance Saturday, May 9, at the Charleston Moose Lodge, 2805 Kanawha Blvd., E., Charleston.

The dance will be held in the Moose Lodge's second-floor ballroom, overlooking the Kanawha River, from 8 p.m. until midnight. Admission is

\$10 per person.

Music will be provided by DJ Randy Damron.

An all-volunteer organization, the SpeakEasy Singles was founded in May 1985 by Carolyn Stevens and Linda Geronilla. Inspired by the success of a singles group in California, they organized a meeting of nonmarried individuals in the Kanawha Valley, with more than 90 people attending.

Over the next three decades, members started hosting gatherings in their homes, picnics, parties and other get-togethers. A volunteer board of di-

rectors was formed to keep members apprised of upcoming activities. The SpeakEasy Singles achieved nonprofit status when the organization was incorporated 15 years ago.

Circa 1998, a website was created to post upcoming activities online for members in Kanawha, Putnam and surrounding counties. The website is still active. The URL is www.speakeasysingles.com

Monthly dances, along with others for special occasions, such as Halloween and New Year's Eve, have been a staple of the SpeakEasy Singles social scene for more than 15

years. Dances were held regularly at the LKM Auditorium in Nitro, the Dunbar National Guard Armory and the Wilson Student Union on the West Virginia State University campus in Institute, attracting 150 or more members and non-members.

Other frequent SpeakEasy Singles gatherings include sporting events, camping trips, bicycling, cruises, dinner and movies, and camping trips.

As well as the website listed above, the SpeakEasy Singles group maintains a Facebook page with updates and a calendar of events.